

# OUT & About



The Pacific Region  
Outreach Newsletter



## Theme: Coastal Resources

- Regional Perspective.....2
- Outreach Accomplishments ....3
- Announcements .....4
- Outreach Accomplishments ....5
- Outreach Accomplishments ....6
- Training.....6
- Centennial Corner .....7
- Outreach Accomplishments ....8
- Outreach Accomplishments.....9
- Resources .....10
- Outreach Accomplishments ..11

**Upcoming Themes:**  
Summer — Visitor Services  
Fall — Fire  
Winter — Centennial  
Spring — Building Good  
Customer Service

## Bolsa Chica Wetland Restoration



*Outreach supports the planning process*

By Jack Fancher

Not long ago, a 2,300-acre tidal salt marsh flanked the Orange County coast. It was called the Bolsa Chica ("little purse or bag"), possibly because of its shape when viewed from the surrounding bluffs. Today development and an increasing human population have greatly diminished and degraded Bolsa Chica. Its 1,300 acres include an operating oil field overlaying seasonal ponds and a salt marsh that is no longer tidally-influenced.

Its recent history is loaded with threats of further loss and degradation, lawsuits, and strong opinions from many environmental factions. In 1997 the Service broke this "cycle of pain" by masterminding the deal that acquired most of the wetland into public ownership. This began the process of cleaning up and removing the oil field and restoring the wetland ecosystem.

The Service's Coastal Program leads seven other agencies involved with

this ambitious project, performing several high-profile functions in planning and implementing the restoration. Our Environmental Contaminants Program leads the Ecological Risk Assessment preparation and is helping to oversee the oil field cleanup process.

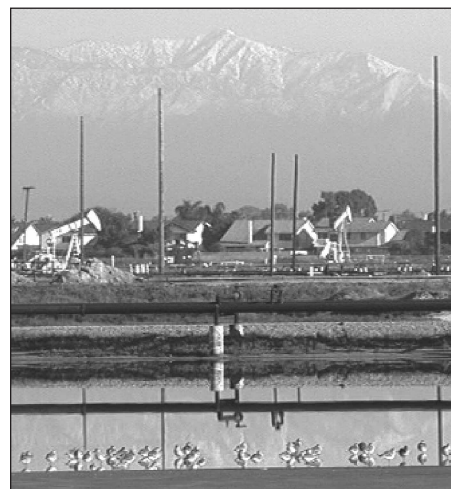


Photo by: Jack Fancher

*Outreach efforts and partners advance Bolsa Chica restoration.*

See BOLSA CHICA... Page 12

## A Whale of a Fair



*Environmental education in a stunning Hawaiian setting*

By Kathy Batha

The residents of Kauai have been counting the days to this year's Family Ocean Fair at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. What makes this the most popular of refuge events? Why is the third Saturday in March so eagerly anticipated?

Perhaps it's because the Laysan albatross and humpback whales are back and very visible. But these animals, along with red-footed boobies and an occasional monk seal or green sea turtle, can be seen any day of the week. Ocean Fair is special because

visitors have many opportunities to learn about these and other fascinating ocean creatures.

Since the event's inception in 1998, when the waters off the refuge were officially declared part of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, Ocean Fair has reached 12,000 people. As a volunteer once said, "On a day like this, people are going to get hooked on this place!"

The event provides exposure for its sponsors — the Sanctuary and its governing body, the National

See A WHALE ... Page 4



**Out & About** is published quarterly for Region 1 Fish and Wildlife Service employees.

## STAFF

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## SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your submissions to **Out & About**. Regular sections in the newsletter are:

- Feature Articles
- Case Studies
- Outreach Accomplishments
- Trainings & Workshops
- Announcements
- Q & A
- Letters to the Editor
- Outreach Resources

Articles should be submitted by E-mail or 3-1/2 inch floppy and run 150 to 500 words. Gear writing to newsletter style; avoid technical jargon. Photos welcome. Publication is not guaranteed, though every effort will be made to use submissions.

Submit articles to Jeanne Clark:  
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E-mail: [jeanne\\_clark@fws.gov](mailto:jeanne_clark@fws.gov)

## SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Spring	April 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	August 15
Winter	November 15

**Out & About** has received U.S. Department of the Interior and Fish and Wildlife Service DI-550 approval.

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## REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

# Outreach Is a Wise Investment 🔍

*Harness public energy in coastal and marine issues*

By Cynthia U. Barry

From the shores of Puget Sound and San Diego Bay to sandy Hawaiian beaches and coral reefs, the Pacific Region's coastal zone is rich in natural resources and scenery. These fragile areas draw a large human population and a resulting array of potential human/wildlife interactions — and conflicts. They also offer incredible opportunities to tell our story, involve the public, and broaden our conservation partnerships.

Our day-to-day efforts are shaped by sound science, regulations, policies, and public involvement. Outreach efforts are becoming an essential part of the Service's management formula, whether we're teaching beach visitors how to avoid disturbing western snowy plovers, using volunteers to plant golden paintbrush seedlings, or showing recreational boaters and marine transportation agencies how to avoid harming sensitive marine species.

Coastal Program and National Wildlife Refuge System personnel integrate outreach strategies in their projects. They recognize that the investment will produce long-term gains for fish and wildlife resources. Each year, they also invest significant funds in outreach and education to foster community stewardship.

How we engage the public varies with each community and the complexity or urgency of the issue at hand. But engage the public we must: Well-designed public scoping meetings scheduled early in the process, for instance, can help avoid re-opening comment periods later on or having to respond to costly litigation down the road.

Well-planned outreach efforts could defuse anger or misunderstandings and potentially channel people's energy into constructive opportunities for involvement. Whether we're conducting an open house, circulating a new brochure, or speaking to a community group, we have an opportunity to change and direct public sentiment and passion regarding the current issue and potentially, many other issues that will follow. A carefully-designed plan and follow-through are essential.

I am impressed by the many proactive, creative, and responsive outreach efforts



Photo by: David Pitkin

*Seabirds gather on coastal islands.*

occurring throughout our coastal and marine programs.

This issue of *Out & About* includes a small sampling. Read how the Service helped mobilize an array of partners to remove an oil field and restore the Bolsa Chica wetland in Southern California. See how targeted educational messages are helping to save nesting snowy plovers in beach communities. Find out about an unusual educational training program to help the Coast Guard avoid disturbing sea bird sanctuaries.

Whether you are guiding an ecological restoration effort, conducting endangered species recovery planning, or planning a public hearing for listing a species, the Pacific Region has tremendous expertise to help you with outreach. Glean some tips from these *Out & About* articles. Consult with your field office information and education specialists or our External Affairs staff. Or ask for help from communication and design specialists in our new Division of Visitor Services and Communications (formerly EPIC).

The numerous people that reside, work, and play in coastal and marine habitats are a permanent part of many coastal environments. They must also be part of our management strategy. Make time to invest in outreach. It helps to involve members of the community, broaden their understanding of coastal and marine issues, and increase support for programs that are at the heart of our agency's mission. **O**

*Cynthia Barry is the assistant regional director for Ecological Services.*



## Eyes in the Skies

*How Coast Guard training is helping sensitive marine species*

By David Pitkin

The Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex (OCNWRC) manages more than 1,400 rocks, reefs and islands as critical habitat for over a million seabirds and thousands of marine mammals.

These same rocks and islands lie within the area of responsibility of the U.S. Coast Guard Group/ Air Stations North Bend and Astoria, which provide maritime law enforcement, environmental protection, maritime safety, and national security for the American public. While there can be distinct advantages in having eyes in the sky over our coastal refuges, the potential for conflicts can arise, as well.

Seabirds and marine mammals are extremely sensitive to aerial disturbances, especially during the breeding season. If proper flight guidelines aren't followed, helicopter-based Coast Guard search and rescue missions, shoreline patrols, and law enforcement can inadvertently create havoc in seabird colonies and sea lion rookeries.

Flight maps used by all pilots list overflight and lateral minimum distance recommendations for rocks and reefs along the Oregon coast. Since Coast Guard pilots constantly rotate through a nationwide system of air stations, it may take a while for new pilots to learn local flight recommendations.

To help new pilots learn the ropes, OCNWRC staff contacted flight operations personnel at the North Bend and Astoria Air Stations in the spring of 2001 and offered a partnership approach to flight training. The OCNWRC would teach Coast Guard pilots about seabird and marine mammal life histories and sensitivities through slide presentations and in-flight training sessions and the Coast Guard would teach us their shoreline patrol routes and mission requirements. The goal was to increase wildlife resource protection through mutual understanding and teamwork.

In any partnership, the key is to ensure that all parties feel like partners. It was imperative to recognize that Coast Guard pilots perform a critical function well beyond

the realm of Fish and Wildlife Service responsibilities. Our task was to provide training to enhance their job performance, and we offered them the opportunity to do the same for us. Some of the pilots expected reprimands before training began, so it was crucial to dispel those notions early in the training sessions. *Goodwill always fosters respect.*

Coast Guard personnel couldn't have been more gracious or responded more positively to the training and strong friendships have developed through our teamwork approach. Virtually every pilot expressed a sincere desire to learn more about coastal wildlife resources, and the commanding officers at each station voluntarily implemented stricter flight rules around refuge resources following training sessions. When pilots patrol now, they're thinking *wildlife*.

And, in a tremendous show of generosity, Group/ Air Station North Bend flew two aerial surveys for the OCNWRC in 2001, saving the Service thousands of dollars in flight time. Several more missions are planned for 2002.

The teamwork approach leaves everyone feeling good — and partnerships pay in unforeseen ways.

*David Pitkin is a fish and wildlife biologist at Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex.*

*"[We] would teach Coast Guard pilots about seabird and marine mammal life histories and sensitivities..."*



Photo by: David Pitkin

*Refuge staff and the Coast Guard exchange training regarding sensitive marine life and shoreline patrols.*

## SCEP Scoop

The Division of Diversity and Civil Rights has initiated the SCEP (Student Career Experience Program) Bulletin published quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

The Diversity Office is looking for stories and articles about Region 1 SCEPs in action. Photos of students working on projects or research, or pertinent stories about college life, course work, funny anecdotes or graduation are welcome. Articles may come



from field stations, peers, supervisors, co-workers, or the students themselves.

Please check the regional portal under Regional Headlines and Events for the new bulletin. Send articles, information, stories, photos, or items of interest to Mandy Olund by email or call 503/231-2260.

## Good PR

Managing refuges that span 320 miles of Oregon coastline requires a lot of driving time and burning of fossil fuels. It is not unusual for Oregon Coastal Refuges folks to drive 25,000 miles a

year in gas-hungry vehicles. The refuge decided to do something about it and acquired a 2002 Toyota Prius. This gas/electric hybrid gets 50 to 55 mpg and produces a tenth of the emissions of a standard vehicle.

Not only is the refuge conserving fuel and protecting air quality, it has gained another great outreach tool: Everywhere they drive this vehicle, people ask what it is and how it operates, opening opportunities to talk about many refuge activities and programs.

See ANNOUNCEMENTS ... Page 9

## A Whale...

Continued from Page 1

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the State of Hawaii, and the refuge's "Friends" group, the Kilauea Point Natural History Association (KPNHA). Each year, Kauai Sanctuary staff organize the event. The refuge provides logistical support, as well as the perfect setting.

To encourage public interaction, every participating organization is required to provide a *free* activity. Participants include the Sanctuary, KPNHA, National Marine Fisheries Service, Hawaii Division of Boating and Outdoor Recreation, Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program, Environmental Protection Agency, Dolphin Quest Hawaii, and the Kauai Children's Discovery Museum.

Inside a large, white circus-like tent, keiki (children's) hands-on activities abound. Kids can gather around the stage to interact with a "rocking" musical comedy with an environmental theme. They can attend a class taught by a local artist or participate in 15 other exhibitor activities.

Parents enjoy the musical and art class, and can also attend hour-long presentations on many topics, ranging from whales (of course) to undersea volcanoes. At a workshop for teachers, docents, interpreters, and scout leaders, local educators can learn new tools for teaching about humpback whales, such as how to make pseudo baleen out of coconut fiber or a life-size baby whale jigsaw puzzle.

At 180-foot high Kilauea Point, youngsters and parents can step out of the activities tent and see the animals firsthand. They may see a massive whale break the surface of the ocean, an albatross glide above them, or Iwa (a frigatebird), the thief, harass a booby until it gives up its food. Environmental education just doesn't get any better than this. No wonder the people of Kauai have been counting the days.

*Kathy Batha is a park ranger at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge.*



Photo by: Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

Visitors see whales everywhere at the fair.

## Caravan Rolls Out Soon

*Modern day Lewis & Clark Expedition will explore Region 1*

By Bruce Monroe

Two hundred years ago the Lewis and Clark Expedition explored our last frontier, the far West. Industrialization and human population growth have dramatically changed the landscape, placing many resident and migratory species in jeopardy.

The Friends of the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge have found a novel way to revisit portions of this expedition, document West Coast environmental changes, bring those changes to the community's attention — and commemorate the National Wildlife Refuge System's centennial anniversary on March 14, 2003 — all in one project!

The Friends have designed a unique "Centennial Caravan" that will travel from the Tijuana Slough NWR on the Mexican border to the Canadian border in Washington. Using a fleet of environmentally-friendly cars, vans, and boats stocked with information about the Refuge System, the caravan will make stops at many Pacific Region refuges to observe wildlife, compare trends, and share information on habitat restoration, biodiversity, and other topics.

The journey will begin on National Public Lands Day in September 2002 and continue through National Wildlife Refuge Week in October 2003.

Two of the caravan's goals are to inform the public about the National Wildlife Refuge System and develop greater community support for individual refuges. By exploring and celebrating refuge accomplishments over the past 100 years, we hope to contribute to an expanded, informed vision for the next 100 years of wildlife stewardship.

The Centennial Caravan is a volunteer effort of West Coast non-profit conservation groups. Negotiations are underway with Toyota for seven specially-equipped vans needed for the journey.

We will be developing media contacts to cover the caravan's progress and report some of its findings and trends. Classrooms using distance learning technology will be able to participate.

The project should also appeal to Audubon Society chapters, Ducks Unlimited, and other birding groups. Regulatory agencies and the academic community will be asked to contribute census trend data and habitat condition reports.

For more information feel free to call me at 562/430-8495. **O**

*Bruce Monroe is a volunteer at Seal Beach NWR, co-chair of Friends of SBNWR, and represents the Sierra Club in this effort.*

## Upcoming Events

### Migratory Bird Festival

**When:** April 5-7  
**Where:** Burns, OR  
**Contact:**  
 541/573-2636  
[www.harneycounty.com](http://www.harneycounty.com)

### Godwit Days

**When:** April 19-21  
**Where:** Arcata, CA  
**Contact:**  
 Arcata Mainstreet  
 800/908-WING  
[www.godwitdays.com](http://www.godwitdays.com)

### Kern Valley Bioregions Festival

**When:** April 26-28  
**Where:** Weldon, CA  
**Contact:**  
 760/378-3044  
[krrc@kernvalley.com](mailto:krrc@kernvalley.com)

### Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

**When:** April 26-28  
**Where:** Hoquiam, WA  
**Contact:**  
 Sheila McCartan  
 360/753-9467  
[www.ghas.org](http://www.ghas.org)

## In the News

*National Wildlife magazine to feature Refuge System stories*

By Susan Saul

Several months ago many of you responded to the request to submit story ideas for the special Refuge System Centennial issue of the National Wildlife Federation's magazine, *National Wildlife*. The editor was impressed with the information provided nationwide and as a result, we can look forward to 40 pages in the middle of the March 2003 issue of the magazine.

The contents will include an 8-page overview of the origins of the Refuge System, 10 pages on the major issues facing refuges, a piece on unusual or surprising refuges, and possibly a collection from some

photographers of their best refuge shots.

The freelance writer assigned to this project was also given additional information on unusual Pacific Region refuges. This has given him ideas for pitching stories to other magazines as well, so be prepared for other possible inquiries and coverage!

Let *National Wildlife's* interest in the Refuge System serve as a catalyst. Contact publications in your community soon to arrange for Centennial publicity. **O**

*Susan Saul is an outreach specialist in External Affairs.*



## Help People Personally Connect

### *Making snowy plover outreach hit home*

By Liz Kelly

Wouldn't you be upset if someone broke into your home and began harassing your baby?" This question, an analogy used to illustrate how disturbance affects nesting snowy plovers, is one that always hits home among people at beaches or meetings about this imperilled bird.

Personalizing the species and other educational techniques help increase understanding and mobilize public support.

Although the Snowy Plover Recovery Plan has not been finalized, outreach on the Oregon Coast has occurred since the early 1990s and involves many partners.

Outreach efforts include talking with beach visitors and giving them written information about what they can do to help the plover. Informational displays have been placed in restaurants, stores, and parks. Government web pages highlight snowy plover recovery efforts.

The Service and its partners also hosted public meetings in Florence and Bandon on the recovery plan. Before getting into the "nuts and bolts" of species recovery, research biologists began with a slide presentation called "What is a Plover?" The presentation helped to defuse some of the anger over



beach restrictions and correct misinformation about the plover.

For instance, people often confuse sanderlings with snowy plovers, and can't understand why such an abundant bird needs to be recovered. Seeing photos of newly hatched plover chicks, so small and vulnerable they have been described as "cotton balls with legs," is an eye opener.

If people can personally connect with an issue and understand the impact one person can have, they will be more willing to comply with beach restrictions and more supportive of overall recovery efforts. **O**

*Liz Kelly is a fish and wildlife biologist at the Oregon Coastal Field Office.*

### **Migratory Bird Education for Educators**

Acquire strategies, skills, and tools to help educate about migratory birds, such as bird identification in a conservation context. Explore many resources, practice activities, and participate in both classroom and field sessions.

**When:** April 8-11

**Where:** Gulf Shores, AL

**Contact:** Hilary Chapman at 304/876-7783

### **Education Programs for Youth: School's Out!**

Learn how to design outdoor programs for youth (e.g., after school, day and residential camps, and weekend programs) in a non-formal setting. Participants will use a program design model to work on their own program, and implement it as a required post-course assignment.

**Where:** April 23-25

**Where:** Shepherdstown, WV

**Contact:** Georgia Jeppesen at 304/876-7388

### **Wildlife Trade — Suitcase for Survival**

This course will train trainers on current wildlife trade issues and how to integrate wildlife trade and biodiversity into ongoing programs. It provides an overview of "Suitcase for Survival" program and introduces new "Windows on the Wild" materials.

**Where:** April 23-24

**Where:** Denver Zoo, Denver, CO

**Contact:** Randy Robinson at 304/876-7450

### **Natural Resource Communications**

Learn how to communicate more effectively with general and technical audiences via oral presentations using good visual aids — especially slides and computer-generated images. A session entitled "Verbal Victories" provides hints for handling difficult, or even hostile, audiences.

**Where:** June 10-14

**Where:** Shepherdstown, WV

**Contact:** Randy Robinson at 304/876-7450

# Centennial Time Capsules

*Remember the past — Speak to the future*

By Susan Saul

The most frequently asked Centennial time capsule questions are: What should I put in it? How should I preserve the capsule and its contents? Where should I put it? Here are some tips to consider when planning:

## USE YOUR IMAGINATION AND PRESERVE ITEMS CAREFULLY

What do you want people to know about your refuge 100 years from now? Ideas include autographed copies of books or other publications about your refuge, badges, biographies of people important in your refuge's history, blueprints of buildings, calendar of events, commemorative pins, copies of historical documents, drawings and essays by students, tourism brochures and magazine articles that mention your refuge, print outs of your refuge's web pages, invitations to past and current celebrations, letters from current staff to their successors, letters from the local community and elected officials, letterhead and business cards, logos, maps, management plans, newspaper clippings, photographs, postcards, posters, refuge brochures, T-shirts and hats, time sheets, uniforms, and annual narrative reports.

## WEAR GLOVES AND MAINTAIN A POLLUTION-FREE ENVIRONMENT

Handle items wearing cotton gloves. Choose items that will not promote mold or rot. Use commercial archival kits or purchase archival materials at craft shops. The capsule should be sealed so it is water- and air-tight.

Make a list of the items you will be placing in the capsule. Name the contributors and those who will be present at the sealing. Retain a copy of this information with your refuge property records and include a copy inside the capsule.

Ensure that future generations of refuge managers know about the time capsule, its

purpose, and where it is located. Leave notes and media clippings about the event.

Detailed preservation recommendations are available on the Centennial Resource website at <http://region1.fws.gov/Centennial/>. Nick Valentine, archaeologist and museum specialist on the Regional Cultural Resources Team, can provide preservation advice at 503/625-4377.

## TO BURY OR NOT TO BURY?

Time capsules do not have to be buried in the ground. They can be placed in an outdoor monument, sealed within a foundation, displayed indoors in the refuge visitor center or administrative office, installed in an exterior wall, or located at a prominent site within the community, such as a local museum, courthouse lobby, or mayor's office.

Whatever location you choose, it should be dry.

A capsule going into the ground should be placed in a vault for added protection or coated to keep out water. If the

capsule is buried, its location

should be identified above ground with a marker or monument. If the capsule will be in a cornerstone, it should be northerly or otherwise sheltered from extreme fluctuations in temperature.

All buried time capsule locations should be mapped and recorded in Service property records.

## PLAN YOUR TIME CAPSULE EVENT

Every event — there will be over 50 in the Pacific Region alone — should occur on March 14, 2003. Decide who should be present, what kind of event you will have, which news media should cover it, and what you will do at the event. For suggestions and advice, contact Susan Saul at 503/872-2728.

*Susan Saul is an outreach specialist in External Affairs.*



*"What do you  
want people to  
know about your  
refuge 100 years  
from now?"*

## Outreach Island Style

*Covering a lot of territory through cooperation*

By Chris Swenson

*"This allows the conservation message to be delivered by people familiar with the local communities and cultures..."*

How do you get things done when there's just you and your territory encompasses dozens of islands across thousands of miles of ocean? You get a lot of helping hands...

This was one of the challenges the new Pacific Islands Coastal Program faced in building and fostering coastal projects. Our advantage is that islanders usually live near the ocean and have an inherent appreciation of coastal and marine resources.

The Pacific Islands offer so many educational opportunities that the best use of my limited time and budget is to help fund local organizations with good projects. This allows the conservation message to be delivered by people familiar with the local communities and cultures, provides cooperators with seed money necessary to leverage other contributions, and completes work we could not accomplish alone.

### NESTING SEA TURTLES

For two years, the Coastal Program has partnered with the National Park Service to fund a hawksbill sea turtle nesting beach protection project on the Big Island. Park staff train, oversee, and supply volunteers, who camp out on beaches during the nesting and hatching season. In addition to controlling predators and monitoring the turtles, volunteers and park staff teach the public about this endangered species.

Through Imi Pono No Ka Aina (Seeking Good for the Land), an environmental education program funded by the Fish and

Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Army, the turtle program hosts an annual two-day "turtle camp." About 15 children in grades six through 12 are exposed to conservation biology, see the turtles firsthand, and get a chance to help monitor the nesting females.

This program has also awarded a trip to a turtle nesting beach as a top prize on a local radio quiz show about environmental topics. The winners and their families become part of a live radio broadcast at a local beach during turtle nest excavations.

### STREAM RESTORATION

Through the Waimanalo Health Center and the University of Hawaii, the Coastal Program, Hawaii Department of Health, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are jointly funding restoration of Waimanalo Stream with plant restoration trials, watershed planning, and public education. Science classes, after-school activity groups, and volunteers are learning about water quality, erosion issues, alien weeds, and the value of planting native vegetation. Gathering native seeds, weeding, planting, and other hands-on activities are always included.

### HAWAII NATURE CENTER

The Coastal Program provided a grant to the non-profit Hawaii Nature Center to help implement the first year of their coastal education program on Oahu. The program includes classroom activities and a local beach park to learn about archaeology, coastal ecology, and problems caused by marine debris.

The center used the money to purchase essential materials, such as a digital camera, CD burner and four, hand-carved, life-size models of Hawaiian coastal birds. Over 1,000 fifth and sixth graders participated in Nature Center programs in the past year and the Center is hoping to reach up to 3,000 children annually over the next two years. **O**

*Chris Swenson is the coastal program coordinator for the Pacific Islands Office.*



Photo by: Chris Swenson

*Volunteers and students monitor nesting turtles.*



# Coastal Education is Vital

*Seek new audiences and try new venues*

By Rick Morat

The dedication of the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California as a Coastal America "Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center" highlighted the commitment of federal agencies to partner with the aquarium on developing education and outreach objectives for coastal and marine issues. This aquarium is the nation's fourth largest and hosts nearly a million visitors a year.

Venues such as the aquarium offer an outstanding resource for expanding our audiences. These types of partnerships challenge us to reach for new audiences and think outside of the box. Here are some approaches for coastal education:

- Focus on one of the coastal zone's greatest assets: people! Much of the nation's populace lives and recreates in the coastal zone, offering fertile ground to do outreach.
- Create partnerships that *really* work. A viable relationship is one that works for the Service, the partners, and the resource. Don't look for a free ride.
- Think accomplishments, not activities. Be substantive. We are seeking to change

people's attitudes and behaviors, not load them up with papers and trinkets or overdose them on visual displays.

- Tailor appropriate messages for these new audiences. Don't rely on outreach materials that have been developed for our "routine" audiences.
- Think non-traditionally. Develop outreach partnerships with coastal aquaria, marine laboratories that host visitors, coastal waysides, rest areas, visitor centers, coastal Chamber of Commerce offices, and other venues that offer opportunities for new audiences and outreach.

In a recent article on Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers, Virginia K. Tippie, Director of Coastal America, quotes Baba Dioum, a Senegalese conservationist, who said "In the end we will conserve only what we love, and we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught." This speaks volumes about the value of coastal education.

*Rick Morat is a fisheries biologist in the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office.*

## Spring Wings Bird Festival

**When:** May 10-12  
**Where:** Fallon, NV  
**Contact:** Janet Schmidt  
 775/428-6452  
 janet\_schmidt@fws.gov/  
 www.springwings.org

## International Migratory Bird

**When:** May 10 & 11  
**Where:** Alviso, CA  
**Contact:** Don Edwards  
 SF Bay NWR  
 408/262-5513

## International Migratory Bird Day

**When:** May 11  
**Where:** Klamath Falls, OR  
**Contact:** Steve Hayner/BLM  
 541/883-6916

## Walk on the Wildside

**When:** May 11  
**Where:** Elk Grove, CA  
**Contact:** Jeanne Clark  
 Stone Lakes NWR  
 916/775-4421  
 jeanne\_clark@fws.gov

## Boating Week

**When:** June 1-9  
**Where:** Nationwide  
**Contact:** www.nationalfishingandboatingweek.com

## Announcements...

Continued from Page 4

## Help for Journalists

If you're looking for ways to promote your station as we build up to the Centennial, get your local media on board soon. Think of events and story lines that can yield media coverage. Include fact sheets and other reminders about time capsules, Centennial programs, and other activities in your regular media mailings.

Make sure to let journalists and filmmakers

know about the Service's "Online Almanac." The webpage includes a wealth of information, from a listing of storyline ideas and wildlife spectacles by the month to historical information and funding opportunities. Go to <http://refuges.fws.gov/centennial/> and select journalists and filmmakers.

## Beanie Babies

Blue Goose beanie babies come in two sizes: mini (4½ inches long) and standard (7½ inches long). Both come

with a key chain and hang tag that have a blue goose and 1903-2003 on one side and a message about the National Wildlife Refuge System on the other side.

The mini version costs \$1.95 each; the standard costs \$3.35. Kolleen Irvine (360/457-8451) is coordinating a consolidated order for minis; Carmen Leong (510/792-0222) is coordinating a consolidated order for the standard size. Whether it's beanie babies or other items, now is the time to place your orders.

## Diligence Pays Off

*Oil spill mitigation funds pay for new panels*

By Roy Lowe

Together, the stunning islands, rocks, and reefs of Oregon Islands and Three Arch Rocks NWRs host over a million nesting seabirds and tens of thousands of resting or breeding seals and sea lions.

The Oregon coast also draws millions of visitors. Not surprisingly, human disturbance of these sensitive species is a major management concern.

Our staff has successfully used a variety of signs, brochures, and other tools to let people know about the refuges, explain why the islands are closed to public access, and tell them about shoreline viewing opportunities.

Our most recent outreach effort focuses on watercraft plying the nearshore waters and their potential disturbance of nesting colonies.

After many years of attending meetings we were successful in obtaining restoration funds from the 1989 Tenyo Maru oil spill.

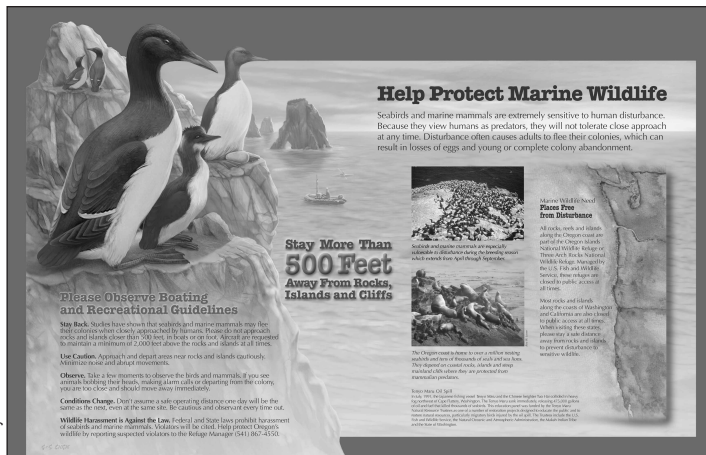
Why funds from a spill on the north Washington coast and what has education got to do with seabird restoration? Simple. Researchers believe that over half of the common murre killed in the spill originated from Oregon colonies and thus, the loss should also be mitigated in Oregon.

We were unable to design a project resulting in direct restoration of Oregon seabird colonies. However, we made the case that outreach efforts could reduce human disturbance. This would result in increased seabird colony productivity, thereby replacing the birds lost in the spill.

This spring we will place 4 foot by 5 foot Folia interpretive panels adjacent to boat ramps at 11 ports in Oregon, targeting all watercraft users. Posters of the panel will be distributed widely along the coast.

Every port manager contacted was enthusiastic about having the panels and asked if we could help with additional interpretation. To accomplish this, we will soon be initiating a series of new partnerships.

*Roy Lowe is the project leader of Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuges.*



Art by: Matt How

### Want a Teddy?

You may not be able to arrange for a Teddy stand-in at your Centennial celebration, but how about a Teddy stand-up? EPI Communications is selling life-sized (5 foot 6 inch) photographic cut outs of President Roosevelt. The cost is \$525 for the first copy or \$450 apiece if more than one is purchased. For more information call Ron Levi at 301/230-2023.

### Winging Northward: A Shorebird's Journey

Let your teachers know about this free electronic field trip on May 8, 2002, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. E.T. Bring shorebirds from the Copper River Delta in the Chugach National Forest of Alaska to grades four through eight. Students will learn about shorebirds, wetlands, migration, and the international connection. New activities are posted every month online. To receive the coordinates and support materials, go to <http://shorebirds.pwnet.org>.

### Small Local Grants

Target and Wal-Mart not only offer great values for shoppers. They are also strong supporters of local community activities. Both retailers offer small grant programs for suitable local projects. The application process is simple and straightforward. For information, contact your local Target or Wal-Mart community involvement coordinator.

### Take a Kid Fishing

The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and Wal-Mart are promoting fishing, boating, and aquatic stewardship during National Fishing and Boating Week, June 1-10, and Wal-Mart's "Take a Kid Fishing" promotion in its 2,800 stores nationwide. The FWS *sii* site will post a state-by-state list of stores in early March, along with ways to celebrate National Fishing and Boating Week. For information, contact Chris McKay via email or at 703/358-1711.

## Sharing an Education Legacy

*An FWS AmeriCorps employee promotes Earth Stewards*

By Anne Walsleben

*"Must we always teach our children with books? Let them look at the mountains and the stars up above. Let them look at the beauty of the waters and the trees and flowers on earth. They will then begin to think, and to think is the beginning of a real education."*

David Polis, Pacific Crest Outward Bound Book of Readings

**L**ike many young college students, I dreamed of traveling to far-off places to bring a mixture of skill and hope to struggling communities, to inspire change in myself and ultimately, society.

A few years after graduating with a biology degree and working as a seasonal biology technician, I heard about a job through AmeriCorps as an environmental education assistant at Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex (OCNWRC). My main duties would be to help research, design, and implement an environmental curriculum for the Earth Stewards program. I had already decided that awareness through education was the best avenue to create change. Here was a perfect opportunity to realize my dream in my own backyard.

Earth Stewards is a national environmental education program supported by the FWS, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Audubon Society, and many local entities. In Region 1 it began as a pilot program at Sacramento NWR and is now expanding to other refuges.

Earth Stewards encourages schools to work with natural resource professionals to develop and teach an issue and community-based curriculum. It empowers children and their community to become stewards of fish and wildlife habitats.

Refuges are perfect natural classrooms, where field trips and stewardship projects link classroom lessons to the real world while fostering critical thinking skills in science, math, English, and other disciplines. At OCNWRC, coastal and marine issues are at the heart of most lessons.

Earth Stewards is designed to be flexible and mesh with what a class is learning. If a teacher is working on endangered species, for example, we might bring a slide show about coastal species that are imperilled.



*Sixth graders join Anne Walsleben, left, planting trees at Nestucca Bay NWR.*

I'm currently helping to initiate new schools into the program, something we achieve by directly contacting schools and promoting the program at local events, such as teachers' conferences and county fairs. I've also had a chance to participate in and help develop outreach events designed to create public awareness about the six refuges our office manages.

While the Service paid an up front fee of \$5,000 to AmeriCorps for my service, the Corporation for National Service is covering my salary and will provide an education award at the end of my commitment. This is a great way for a refuge or office to receive a skilled employee for an 11-month period, without having to cover the entire expense.

It's been a great experience for me, offering a chance to work with some extremely knowledgeable and dedicated people on important projects. The most rewarding aspect of my work, however, has been watching young faces illuminate with a genuine appreciation for their coastal environment.

*Anne Walsleben is an environmental education assistant at the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuges.*

*"Earth Stewards is designed to be flexible and mesh with what a class is learning."*

Photo by: USFWS photo

**O**



## Coastal Grassland Restoration

*Volunteers lend sweat and talent to planting project*

By Mary Mahaffy, Judy Lantor, and Ted Thomas

*"This project  
strongly  
demonstrates  
partnership  
in action."*

On a sunny day last November, a long line of people endured a grueling climb up a steep coastal bluff on Washington's Whidbey Island. It wasn't a nature hike, but a dozen plant ecologists, students, and volunteers from The Nature Conservancy, the University of Washington, and Fish and Wildlife Service armed with trowels, wheelbarrows, and over 480 golden paintbrush seedlings. They were headed for the Conservancy's recently-purchased Robert J. Pratt Preserve. Their task: to plant golden paintbrush seedlings as a recovery activity for the listed plant.

Now federally listed as threatened, golden paintbrush once occurred at more than 30 locations in the Puget Trough grasslands of Washington and British Columbia, and as far south as the Willamette Valley of Oregon. Agricultural, residential, and commercial use replaced much of this native grassland habitat. Only 11 golden paintbrush locations remain and these are vulnerable to people who pick and trample the flowers, small mammals that eat the plants, and invading trees, shrubs, and grasses.



Photo by: Mary Mahaffy, USFWS

This project strongly demonstrates partnership in action. A Conservancy plant ecologist worked with the University to plan the project. The Service's Puget Sound Coastal and Endangered Species programs provided technical assistance and partial funding. A University graduate student collected seeds from an adjacent golden paintbrush population and used University greenhouses to grow seedlings for the project. And Conservancy and University volunteers joined in the planting. **O**

*Mary Mahaffy is a wildlife biologist, Judy Lantor is a fish and wildlife biologist, and Ted Thomas is an ecologist at the Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office.*

### Bolsa Chica...

Continued from Page 1

Outreach has played an important role throughout this restoration project. We began planning with a series of informal, monthly public workshops on potential issues, such as habitat restoration goals and alternatives, inlet impacts, oil field contaminants, and public access. There were several motives for holding the workshops, such as overcoming the negative baggage that came with the site, establishing agency credibility, showcasing our intentions, and hearing public concerns and ideas.

During completion of the draft and final EIS, we also participated in several formal information sessions, town hall meetings, and workshops. These public meetings were the primary medium for us to provide current information about the project. They also allowed continued dialogue about specific issues and potential solutions throughout this

18-month process. These ongoing meetings were crucial in cultivating public understanding and support.

We initiated a newsletter to provide periodic updates to reach those who couldn't attend meetings. Although we didn't issue as many as we might have liked, we believe this was a very effective outreach method and should be a high priority for similar efforts. We also provided routine information to the news media and were rewarded with positive coverage by one newspaper, which devoted full-page spreads to the project.

This type of outreach always takes time, but it clearly helped reinforce the project supporters — and swayed many of the project opponents. **O**

*Jack Fancher is a biologist in the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office.*



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